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Hamilton College.

HISTORICAL DISCOURSE.

BY REV. SAMUEL WARE FISHER,
President of the College.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 1862.



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BY REV. SAMUEL WARE FISHER, D. D.,
PRESIDENT OF HAMILTON COLLEGE.

NEARLY seventy years have passed away since yonder eminence witnessed a scene which its results have invested with a deep historic interest. A company of pioneers had gathered, amidst the forest that then clothed its summit, to lay the corner stone of Hamilton Oneida Academy. The position chosen for the establishment of this Institution was remarkable. It was near the geographical center of this State, soon to take and maintain the first rank among its sisters in the Union. A few rods east ran the *Line of Property*,* which divided the retiring barbarism of the Aborigines from the incoming civilization of the Anglo-American. It looked down upon the valley of the Mohawk, which, stretch-

* "The Property Line was established by a treaty between the State of New York and the Oneida Indians, by which the latter ceded to the former all their lands lying north and east of that line. It extended from the head waters of the Unadilla river to Wood creek, its course being north 27° east, and formed the western boundary of Coxe's patent. A person standing on College Hill in a clear day, can easily trace this famous boundary southward and eastward from the corner of Kirkland's patent, opposite the North College, striking a poplar tree in Professor North's garden, crossing the road obliquely above the school house at the foot of the hill, passing through Noel Foot's saw mill and dwelling house, following the road leading past the residence of Eurotas Hart, and thence stretching away south of Paris Hill to its termination in the town of Bridgewater."—*Lecture by Hon. O. S. Williams, before the Young Men's Lyceum, Clinton.*

ing from the Hudson to Oneida Lake and continued thence by the lowlands on the south of that lake to the hills of Onondaga, was to become one of the two great thoroughfares along which the burden of half a nation's freightage was to be borne. On the north and far north-east rose to view the summits of those hills which divide the waters of Ontario and the St. Lawrence from the affluents of the Hudson; while immediately below it was the valley of the Oriskany, running southward until melting into that of the Chenango, it at length entered that southern intervalle which was, in time, to constitute the second grand highway between the east and the west. On this central and commanding position they were establishing an Institution whose influence was destined to pass beyond the anticipations of the most far-seeing and sanguine.

The *time* of this event was memorable in history. We had successfully accomplished the greatest civil Revolution; we had adopted the Constitution and organized the Government, and were just starting in that great experiment by which Republicanism was to stand or fall. WASHINGTON was chief, and around him were the lights of the Revolution, HAMILTON, JEFFERSON, JAY, MADISON, RANDOLPH, KNOX and others of nearly equal brilliancy. The Board of Regents in this State had just been organized upon a permanent basis, and the charter of this Academy was among their earliest acts. The tide of immigration had begun to flow towards these lands, now fairly open to the white settler. Here and there below us the partial clearing, the rude hut, the incipient grouping of dwellings of greater pretensions, indicate the presence of civilization, and the germs of those beautiful villages and cities which now form so attractive a feature in the landscape. Outside of this nation the realm of civilization was in a state of great agitation. France was convulsed with the throes of that bloody travail which gave birth to events the most terrible and the most brilliant in the history of man. While here the sounds of war had ceased and peaceful citizens assembled to lay the foundations of an Institution that was to aid in spreading the light

of Christian science and civilization through the world, there an hereditary monarch and his beautiful queen were borne to the scaffold, Napoleon was just preparing for his wonderful career, while the nations of Europe, outside of France, were marshaling for that greatest conflict of the past. Such was the *time*.

The *occasion* is one of special interest. The chief statesmen of the nation, including the father of his country, have heard of and anticipated it with that peculiar pleasure which belongs to far-seeing and patriotic minds, intent upon the production of those forces which were to mould the grand future of this young nation. It has gathered together the leading minds from a large section of the State. The men who moulded these communities into their present form, with not a few of the earnest, stalwart workers whose hands were to subdue the forests, are there. STEUBEN, the brave old warrior, who came in our hour of trial, to discipline our rude soldiery and organize them into the effective battalions that beat back the invading hosts of England, has come to perform one of the last and most notable and pregnant acts of his useful life for the country of his adoption ; to lay the corner stone of an Institution which is to bear down into the future the name of his old compatriot in arms, one of the foremost statesmen of this or any other age. A troop of horsemen, commanded by a son of KIRKLAND, among whom were some who had mingled in the fight of Oriskany and seen Cornwallis surrender his sword at Yorktown, occupy the outer circle as his escort and symbolize the patriotism to be nourished here : a patriotism that in the hour of our country's need will not shrink, sword in hand, from defending the nation's rights, be the assailants ambitious foreign despots, or equally ambitious but more malignant traitors in our own land. Reclining partly on the grass and standing around is a company of the faithful Oneidas, among whom towers the venerable form of their Christian chief, the brave SKENANDOA ; SKENANDOA, the friend of KIRKLAND, whose counsels in peace and war have kept them firm on our side through all the horrors of he

Revolution; his head is now whitened by the snows of ninety winters; he looks in silence upon the scene, knowing that whatever may betide his people, his own ashes will mingle with those of his Christian father, and his body ascend with his in the resurrection of the just.*

But there is still another—the central figure of this company—around whom clusters the chief interest; one whose noble heart prompted, whose intellect conceived, whose energy carried into execution the plan of founding this Institution. The name of SAMUEL KIRKLAND, although as yet like that of CALVIN, no marble shaft designates the spot where his dust reposes, will live while yonder walls endure, and literature, science and religion shall cherish the memory of those whose lives have been associated with their advancement in this land.

Mr. KIRKLAND was of Scotch descent; his father was the Rev. DANIEL KIRKLAND, for many years the pastor of the Third Congregational Church in Norwich, Ct. We hear of him first as a student in 1761, in the school of Rev. Dr. ELEAZER WHEELOCK, at Lebanon, Ct. This school was established by Dr. WHEELOCK, chiefly for the purpose of training Indian youth as missionaries to their own people. It was not however limited to them, but embraced also some English students. Out of this school, after a time, grew Dartmouth College. And here KIRKLAND received those im-

* Skenandoa was one of the most powerful and wise of the Oneidas. He became a Christian soon after the establishment of the mission by Mr. Kirkland at Oneida. Commanding in figure, of great eloquence and solid judgment, he exerted a decisive influence over his tribe. His Christian character was remarkably strong and well defined. A short time before his death, he thus expressed himself to a friend: "I am an aged hemlock; the winds of an hundred winters have whistled through my branches; I am dead at the top. The generation to which I belonged have run away and left me; why I live, the Great Good Spirit only knows; pray to my Jesus that I may have patience to wait for my appointed time to die." It was his wish to be buried beside his old friend and teacher, "that he might go up with him at the great resurrection." This wish was complied with. He died in March, 1816, aged 110 years, and was buried beside his friend. His remains now rest in the College cemetery, where a monument was erected to him by the Northern Missionary Society.

pressions which ultimately led him to devote his life to the evangelization of the Aborigines. In 1762 he entered the Sophomore Class in Nassau Hall. At the Commencement in 1765, he received his degree in course. He was not present however at the time. Early in the winter of that year, at the age of twenty-four, acting upon the suggestion of his old instructor, Dr. WHEELOCK, and in obedience to that spirit which consecrates the true missionary of the cross, he gave himself directly to his life-long work. His life from henceforth, distances in thrilling interest the highest creations of fiction. His mission was the evangelization of the Six Nations, then occupying the central and western portions of this State. He came to a people not then, as now, the cowed and broken remnants of a great confederacy. They were in the height of power; fierce, proud, irascible, fickle, revengeful, the slaves of superstition, delighting in war, fond of blood. He dwelt in their miserable wigwams; he partook of their often disgusting food; he tolerated their filthy habits; he bore with their childish impatience. In perils of waters; in perils of robbers; in perils of murderers; in perils of starvation; in perils of false brethren; unaided and unprotected by the strong arm of Government; for months and even years separated from his family; amidst the depressions of disease, the horrors of war and the sorrows of bereavement, he sought the best interests of these wild denizens of the forest, and developed some of the finest qualities that constitute an apostle, or dignify our humanity. Patient under trials; persevering amidst difficulties; fearless in the face of appalling dangers and when his life hung by a thread; returning ingratitude with kindness; his life a long sacrifice for the good of a race passing away, he rises before us to-day in the ennobled character of Christ's missionary—a character such as only the Gospel and the grace of God is able to develop in this world. We lose sight of his imperfections, in presence of the grandeur of his aims, the Christ-like character of his motives, and the noble qualities he manifested in the prosecution of his high mission. Rarely ever, in the history of

the world, has devotion to one object, and that the noblest which can occupy the mind, been more signally illustrated.

Circumstances early determined him to devote his efforts to the elevation of the Oneidas. Over this tribe he secured and maintained a commanding influence. They testified their appreciation of his services and character, not only by uniting themselves to the side of the colonies in the war for Independence, but by a generous gift to Mr. KIRKLAND personally, of a large tract of land.* During the Revolution he acted as chaplain in the army stationed in this section of the State; subsequently he was requested by the Government to aid in the formation of a treaty with the Six Nations. This treaty secured a peace which, on the part of the great majority, has remained unbroken to the present. His residence during most of his missionary life was at Oneida Castle, where the Oneidas had their Council Fire.

Before the close of the century, he removed to this place, erecting for himself a small dwelling just inside the line of Property and shortly after the mansion which still bears his name.

* In December, 1788, the State of New York and the Indians, conjointly, made a grant to Mr. Kirkland and his two eldest sons, of large and valuable tracts of land in the neighborhood of Oneida, amounting in all to about 4,750 acres. Subsequently, in April, 1792, Messrs. Gorham & Phelps conveyed to Mr. Kirkland 2,000 acres of land in Ontario county. This was granted to him for his services, in reference to a "tract of six millions one hundred and forty-four thousand acres, familiarly called the *Genesee Country*, which the State of New York, in 1786, granted, without an equivalent, to the claims of the State of Massachusetts, ceding everything but the right of sovereignty, and which tract the latter had sold to Oliver Phelps and Nathaniel Gorham for one million of dollars."—Dr. *Lothrop's Life of Kirkland*.

"Mr. Kirkland's patent was two miles square, and lies on the west side of the Property Line, its north-east corner being near North College." "He removed to his Patent in 1789, and from that time to his death, he dwelt on his beautiful domain. About the year 1791 he built and afterwards occupied a small frame house," which now (1862) stands near the school house, at the foot of College Hill. "In 1795 he erected the present family mansion." This edifice, now owned by L. S. Harding, Esq., is one of the most commodious and beautifully situated in the town. It stands near the foot of the hill and a few rods south of College street.

The unparalleled exposures, privations and trials of nearly thirty years' labor had begun to undermine his once vigorous constitution. He naturally looked forward to the future. The object which in his youth had kindled his enthusiasm still held its place in his heart, now that the shadows of age began to fall upon him. He wished to leave behind him something that should consummate and crown his work when he had departed. He knew the far-reaching power of an Institution of learning to spread civilization and Christianity through the world. He resolved to plant such an Institution—an Institution open to all, in which the Indian and the Anglo-American might be trained to civilize the aborigines and diffuse the light of Christianity among the masses that were yet to fill this broad land.

And here it is well to notice the remarkable fact, that two of the leading Colleges of this Union, sprang from the spontaneous efforts of Missionaries having primary reference to the elevation of the Indian. Dartmouth and Hamilton are the outgrowth of Christianity in its purpose to rescue from degradation and lift up to a position of intelligence and true religion, the Sons of the Forest. The tide of civilization, sweeping around and beyond them, has borne on its crest the wrecks and fragments of a once mighty nation. The providence of God, with other purposes in view, is working out through them results broader and grander than even the seer-visioned men who laid their foundations foresaw. But while these Institutions live, they will lift up before the oncoming generations, in characters more durable than those chiseled in marble or brass, the fiery signal of the red denizens of the forest. And when thousands of names once on the lips of millions, touched by the waters of Lethe, have sunk into oblivion, those of WHEELOCK and KIRKLAND, the humble teachers of this race, will shine lustrous among the stars that gem the firmament of God.

To the work of founding this Institution Mr. KIRKLAND devoted himself with his accustomed energy. He interested many of our statesmen and persons prominent in civil life, from WASHINGTON downward, in the project. From HAM-

ILTON, whose name the Institution was to bear, he obtained the gift of a lot of land which realized what in those times was a handsome sum. He gave at first the ground for the site of the Academy, and subsequently about an eighth of the entire patent granted him by the Oneidas. He was, in the language of one of our aged citizens, "a man of great enterprise, shrewdness, and tact. He was for progress." The people were poor; scarcely six years had passed since the white man had ventured into this wide wilderness to make a home for himself. Everything was rude, inchoate, unformed. So late as 1799, President DAY, then a tutor in Yale College, relates, that he accompanied Dr. DWIGHT as far as Utica with the intention of visiting Niagara. Appalled by the dangers and trials of the way they turned back after having paid a visit to the Missionary KIRKLAND and this infant Academy. In spite of this state of things, Mr. KIRKLAND, by his personal solicitations, interested the people in the work. They went forth into the woods in companies: they felled the trees, sawed the lumber, and then assisted in rearing the building. The enterprise was great for that time, vastly greater than the erection of the temple by Solomon, or our own national capitol in the time of our prosperity. He watched over it with parental solicitude. He had the satisfaction of seeing it manned with faithful instructors, and class after class leave its halls, before his own eyes closed in death.*

* In April, 1793, Mr. Kirkland gave a title-deed for several tracts of land, amounting to several hundred acres, for the benefit of the Academy. Twelve acres, constituting the site on which the Academy, and afterwards the College, edifices were built, is declared to be inalienable. In the preamble to the deed he enumerates the motives which led to the gift. "A serious consideration of the importance of education, and an early improvement and cultivation of the human mind, together with the situation of the frontier settlement of this part of the State, though extensive and flourishing, yet destitute of any well regulated seminary of learning, has induced and determined me to contribute of the ability wherewith my Heavenly Benefactor hath blessed me, towards laying the foundation and support of a school, or academy, in the town of Whitestown, county of Herkimer, contiguous to the Oneida nation of Indians, for the mutual benefit of the young and flourishing settlement in said county, and the various tribes of Confed-

The application for the charter is dated November 12th, 1792. It was granted early in the following year, and is signed by GEORGE CLINTON, as Chancellor. The first board of trustees consisted of ALEXANDER HAMILTON, JOHN LANSING, EGBERT BENSON, DAN BRADLEY, ELI BRISTOL, ERASTUS CLARK, JAMES DEAN, MOSES FOOT, THOMAS R. GOLD, SEWAL HOPKINS, MICHAEL MYERS, JONAS PLATT, JEDEDIAH SANGER, JOHN SERGEANT, TIMOTHY TUTTLE and SAMUEL WELLS. Of these men some were quite prominent in the nation and the State, while others were leading citizens in this section of country. The foundations of the Academy were laid soon after, and in the course of one or two years the building itself was erected. It stood between

erated Indians, earnestly wishing the Institution may grow and flourish, that the advantages of it may be extensive and lasting, and that under the smiles of the God of wisdom and goodness, it may prove an eminent means of diffusing useful knowledge, enlarging the bounds of human happiness, aiding the reign of virtue and the kingdom of the blessed Redeemer." Mr. Kirkland died of pleurisy on the 28th of February, 1808. His funeral sermon was preached by Rev. Dr. Norton of Clinton. His remains, with those of his youngest daughter and the chief Skenandoa, were interred near his house. In October, 1856, they were removed, by direction of the Board of Trustees, to the College cemetery. He had three sons and three daughters. Of the sons, George W. and Samuel died unmarried; Dr. John Thornton Kirkland, President of Harvard College, left no children. Of the daughters, Jerusha, the eldest, married John H. Lothrop, of Utica; the next, Sarah, married Francis Amory, of Boston, and Eliza, the youngest, Rev. Dr. Edward Robinson, now Professor in Union Theological Seminary, New York city. Rev. Dr. Lothrop, of Boston, and Mrs. Edmund A. Wetmore, of Utica, are children of Mrs. J. H. Lothrop, and grandchildren of Mr. Kirkland.

The trustees on the 22d of August, 1820, adopted a series of resolutions, providing for the purchase of a cemetery for the College, and the removal to it of the remains of Mr. Kirkland, Dr. Backus and Professor Norton. On the 24th of July, 1855, Hon. E. A. Wetmore, Hon. O. S. Williams and Rev. Dr. Vermillye were appointed a committee to superintend the removal of the remains of Mr. Kirkland, those of his family and direct descendants who were buried on his homestead, or in the village burying ground, and those of the chief Skenandoa. On the 31st of October, 1856, the remains of Mr. Kirkland, Mrs. Robinson, his youngest daughter, and Skenandoa were taken up and interred with suitable ceremonies in the College cemetery. No monument has yet been erected to Mr. Kirkland. The time, we trust, is not far distant, when this long contemplated act of justice to the founder of the College, will be performed.

the Chapel and Hamilton Hall; was three stories in height and ninety feet in length by thirty eight in width. For several years it remained quite incomplete; but early in 1798 the large room on the south, in the second story, was completed, and two small rooms on the first floor. The building occupied by the President of the College for the last fifty years, with the exception of the period of Dr. NORTH's incumbency, was erected subsequently for a boarding house.

Mr. JOHN NILES, a graduate of Yale College in 1797, was the first preceptor. He entered upon his duties in the fall of 1798, and held the position for three years, when his failing health led him to seek another field of labor. In the autumn of 1799 he associated with himself JAMES MURDOCK, a college classmate. Mr. MURDOCK continued as a teacher for only a single year. He subsequently studied for the ministry under the Rev. Dr. NORTON, of this place, and for many years held successively the posts of Professor of Languages in the University of Vermont and of Ecclesiastical History in the Andover Theological Seminary. He was a man of solid learning and varied acquirements, and did good service in his generation.

Mr. NILES became also a minister of the Gospel, and removed to Bath, in Steuben county, where he engaged in teaching. He died in 1812, while yet a young man and in the early maturity of his powers. He is represented here to-day by a grandson, a member of the Freshman Class. He was quite successful as a teacher and a large number of both sexes remember him with gratitude.

In September, 1801, the Rev. ROBERT PORTER succeeded Mr. NILES as principal. He was graduated at Yale in 1795, and licensed to preach in 1798, (or 1799,) and for a short time previous had been acting as a missionary among the settlements on the Black river. He held the position of preceptor for four years, when he resigned, in order to head a colony for the settlement of Prattsburgh, in this State. With great reluctance he left the ministry and entered civil life, but his influence was wholly consecrated to religion, and it was among the most effective in imparting to that

town its high character for morality and intelligence. He died in 1847, respected and beloved.

We now come to the first living link in the chain that binds the Academy and the College together. Mr. SETH NORTON became principal in the fall of 1805. He resigned in 1807 to accept a tutorship in Yale College, his place being supplied by JAMES WATSON ROBBINS. After a year's absence he returned and resumed the preceptorship, which he held until his appointment as professor of languages at the opening of the College. In the year 1806 an effort was made to finish the rooms of the Academy building; but it was only partially successful. It remained incomplete until the establishment of the College. The time had now come for a very decided advance in its character as an Educational Institution. It had done its work well for that age. For fourteen years it had been in successful operation, and during all that time its students annually numbered from forty to sixty, including a number of young ladies. Besides those trained for commercial life, a large number had been prepared for college within its walls. KIRKLAND, who died four years before, lived long enough to see his anticipations in part realized. Not a few of its students rose to distinction in the professions and active pursuits of life. Among those who honored the Academy, where they received the whole or an important part of their education, we recall the names of JOHN COLT, HARVEY BALDWIN, the GOVERNEURS, ALPHA MILLER, GEORGE BRISTOL, ELY BURCHARD, IRA JEROME, REUBEN SNOWDEN and JOSIAH BACON. These are but a part of the list; for unfortunately no record remains of their names, and at this distance of time it is impossible to recover them all or even the larger part. But of one thing we are sure; the influence of the Academy upon this section of the State had been most happy in assisting to mould society and give it that character for intelligence and morality which it has ever since maintained. Men die, but the influence of these institutions is transmitted through them to posterity. Every light kindled on that hill has been used to kindle other lights; every father,

mother, teacher, minister, lawyer, merchant, yea every living actor in the world of mind, who there caught the enthusiasm of learning and religion, and went forth to the work of life, has multiplied and diffused that enthusiasm through the societies in which they moved. And though the old Academy is gone, and the men who taught there are all numbered with the dead, yet its influence still lives and works unseen in thousands of hearts.

Meanwhile a great change has passed over the face of the country. Those twenty years since the charter was applied for, and those fourteen during which the Academy was in existence, have wrought wonders. The title of the Indian to vast tracts in the central and western portions of the State has been extinguished by an equitable purchase, while his position as a race vanishing away, has been determined by causes above the control of statesmen. Into this open field men of enterprise had come in great numbers. The log hut gave place to the comfortable mansion; the hamlet had become a village—the village a town giving promise of those cities which were to spring up in the wilderness. Dr. DWIGHT need not turn his horse's head eastward, when he had reached the line of Property. He realized the long cherished aspiration to look upon Niagara and listen to that voice which through so many centuries had spoken of the divine greatness only in the ears of the wild beast and the savage. The wise and thoughtful beheld in vision our future—grand and wonderful. They saw the necessity for a higher institution of learning to bear its part in the education of these accumulated masses. With the exception of Columbia College, occupying an isolated position in the city, and Union College in the eastern part of the State, there was no such institution within her bounds; none at all for the middle and western sections. They resolved here to plant such a college; to give it the prestige which the Academy enjoyed; and in this central position build the walls within which science and religion should shed their united light upon their youth.

The purpose once formed hastened to its accomplishment.

The trustees of the Academy were foremost in the matter. Fairfield, in Herkimer county, possessed an Academy, and was a rival claimant for the position of the College. So they went to Fairfield and secured the services of the principal, the Rev. CALEB ALEXANDER, a man of great industry, enterprise and perseverance, to secure the funds necessary to obtain a charter. The Academy buildings and grounds and other property, amounting to \$15,000, were to be transferred to the trustees of the new institution. In addition to this, Mr. ALEXANDER shortly obtained a subscription in notes and parcels of land, sufficient to raise the entire amount to \$50,000. This sum, in those times, was fully equal, if you take the value of property into consideration, to a gift of one million now. It would be an easier matter for the people who now occupy the ground chiefly covered by the original subscription, to raise the latter, than it was for the people of that day to raise the former. Fifty years have given a prodigious expansion to the wealth of this region, and put it in the power of the people to have just such institutions as their numbers require. Among the leading subscriptions we find one—the largest—of a thousand dollars, by the late STEPHEN VAN RENSSELAER, of Albany; another of five hundred dollars by Governor TOMPKINS, whose name as chancellor of the regents is affixed to the charter. The names of most of the leading citizens of the State are found on the subscription list. They felt the importance of such an institution to the steady advance of science and religion in the State.

The charter was granted by the regents on the 26th of May, 1812. The board of trustees appointed in the charter were all men of standing, and some of them of high reputation. They immediately proceeded to make arrangements for the opening of the College. They repaired and finished the old Academy, secured the \$50,000 granted by the Legislature, and elected the Faculty of the College. It is a curious fact that one of the first recommendations of the committee on College officers, was the appointment of "a Professor of Chemistry and Mineralogy; a Professor of

Surgery and Anatomy; a Professor of the Institutes of Medicine, and a Professor of Obstetrics." And among the first appointments was that of Dr. NOYES, for so many years the popular Professor of Chemistry, and of Dr. WESTEL WILLOUGHBY, Professor of Obstetrics. The latter gentleman did not accept his appointment, and we hear nothing further of the medical professorships until 1843, when Dr. HASTINGS was appointed Lecturer on Anatomy and Physiology. The Professorship of Languages was filled by Preceptor SETH NORTON; and the post of Tutor by THEODORE STRONG, who two years afterwards was appointed Professor of Mathematics. After some little delay, Rev. Dr. AZEL BACKUS was elected to the Presidency. The faculty then consisted of President BACKUS, Professors NOYES and NORTON, and Tutor STRONG. The College was opened on the 22d of October, 1812. The inauguration of the President took place on the third of December following. The exercises consisted of a discourse by Dr. BACKUS, a Latin address by Professor Norton, prayer and reading of the Scriptures by Rev. Dr. NORTON and Rev. ELIPHALET STEELE.

The selection of Dr. AZEL BACKUS for the Presidency was eminently happy. Graduating at Yale College in 1787, he was in 1789 settled as the successor of Rev. Dr. BELLAMY,—one of the greatest and best men New England ever produced,—over the Church in Bethlehem, Connecticut. For twenty-three years he had continued the pastor of that Church, not only standing high in the esteem and affection of his own people, but regarded by the public at large, as one of the brightest lights of his native State. His character stood so high that in 1798 he was selected by Gov. WOLCOTT to preach the Election Sermon before the Legislature. He was one of the youngest men on whom this distinguished honor was conferred. This Sermon not only gave him a reputation for effective pulpit talents in this country but in England, where it was twice republished. Something more, however, was necessary to fit him for his new position than simply those qualities which enabled him to discharge the duties of a country pastorate. While in College, Dr. BACKUS had

taken high rank as a scholar, and during his entire ministry he had charge of a private school in which a large number of young men were fitted for college. He thus perfected his scholarship in most of the branches deemed essential to a liberal education, and exhibited great tact in the government of youth. He had now reached the ripe age of forty-seven. He was in the full maturity of his powers, and enjoyed the unbounded confidence of the friends of education. Portly in figure, positive and often vehement in the expression of his sentiments, he united with the dignity of the old school of manners, a geniality that made him a universal favorite. His native wit and sarcasm, weapons that he used with freedom against pretension and folly, have in some minds overshadowed those truly great and noble qualities which lifted him above ordinary men. As a speaker he was direct, forcible, clear and deeply earnest. He grappled with truth as a master, and flung it forth with a careless elegance and enthusiasm that attracted all classes. Deeply moved himself, he never preached without leaving some impressions that remained in the minds of his hearers. This man of large culture, of keen wit, often of great sternness in dealing with individual folly and wickedness, became a child when he entered the pulpit, and spoke the truth with tears. His practical wisdom and tact were of great importance in the foundation of this Institution. He introduced the order and discipline of the older Colleges. As a teacher, his ability to go direct to the heart of a subject, his power of suggesting and of stimulating thought, his forcible enunciation of great principles and the power with which he dissected error, placed him high as an educator. His name was a tower of strength abroad. In full sympathy with the churches, often called to visit them, commanding the reverence and respect of the ministry and the leading minds in civil life, he had begun the work of installing this Institution in the affections of those whose influence was able to make it a great light in the world.

In his inaugural discourse he thus speaks on the subject of education, and expresses his own view of the responsibili-

ties he is about to assume: "It is no trifling office I am called to fill. I need not magnify it. Its consequences may reach to unborn myriads in eternity. No trifling consideration would have led me to tear myself or suffer myself to be torn from the embraces of an affectionate people." "Mere science, without moral and religious habits, is a curse, and not a blessing to the community. Better for a youth, and for civil society, that he had lived in ignorance, than that he should issue from a college with irreligious and immoral principles. Such as contract vicious habits in an academic course are more dangerous than madmen, armed with instruments of death, and let loose among the defenseless inhabitants of a village. Let it never be imagined then that the sole object of education is to make youth acquainted with languages, sciences and arts. The governors and instructors of a literary institution owe to God and society the sacred duty of guarding the morals of the youth committed to their care. An attention to order, and the early formation of habits of industry and investigation, I venture to assert, are of more importance than mere knowledge." In alluding to the scene there enacted, he says with great beauty: "Let it not be forgotten this day, that the deep reflecting mind of KIRKLAND looked forward to these solemnities. Though his remains lie low in the narrow house, future generations may pour their blessings on his memory for his charity and prayers. The venerable old man saw this day afar off and rejoiced." Thus spake our First President; these were the Christian principles, as true now as when they were spoken, on which he sought to build this Institution. His early death, due meditately to his self-sacrifice and devotion to the sick, prevented the completion of his work. But his short administration of four years fully justified the successful auguries of his friends. His departure was like the overclouding of the sun at mid-day. On the 28th of December, 1816, this great light was obscured. His dust reposes in our College cemetery; his name, his fame, his lofty character are a precious heritage which the sons of Hamilton will ever cherish.

In the fall of 1817, the Rev. Dr. DAVIS entered upon the duties of his office, as the Second President of this Institution. His life, since boyhood, had all been spent in college. Graduating at Yale in 1796, he was appointed tutor in Williams, and subsequently transferred to the same position in his Alma Mater. Discharging the duties of this office with great fidelity, he was in 1801 elected to the Professorship of Divinity, but his health prevented his acceptance. In 1806 he was elected to the Professorship of Languages in Union College, and in 1809 transferred to the Presidency of Middlebury College. At the time of his accession to the Presidency of Hamilton College, he was in the full maturity of his powers and reputation. No man in New England stood higher, in the estimation of those accustomed to weigh public men, for those scholarly accomplishments, that executive ability and high moral character, essential to constitute an able president. His almost simultaneous election to fill the chairs vacated by the death of Dr. DWIGHT in Yale and Dr. BACKUS in Hamilton, establishes this fact. To his accurate scholarship, he united an indomitable will, a love of his profession, great dignity of character, a strong sense of what was due to his position, a steady purpose to maintain the right and the fitting in the face of all opposition. As a preacher, Dr. DAVIS stood high. His reputation in this respect lead to his election to the Divinity Professorship at Yale. His style was clear, his thoughts profound, his manner forcible and impressive. Had he given himself to this part of his work, he would have had few superiors. His sermons arrested attention and instructed the hearer. Without the peculiar emotion of his predecessor, he yet so presented his subject, with that just analysis and strength of expression, as to make it a power of influence over the heart. Familiar with the methods of education in our older Institutions, he came here prepared to carry them out to the full extent of his ability. Lacking somewhat in that breadth and comprehensiveness of mind which is ordinarily acquired only by a large intercourse with the world outside of college walls, he was not readily tolerant of in-

novations, nor perhaps as ready, as with a somewhat different training he would have been, to adapt his plans to the advancing state of society. Naturally and by education conservative, a man of method, cast in the iron mould of a Jackson, and without the power of accommodation that characterized a Clay, with a strong sense of right and justice and an inflexible purpose to follow wherever they led, a thorough gentleman, full of kindness and Christian feeling, commanding the respect of friends and opponents in all his social intercourse ; such was the man who for sixteen years presided over this Institution, and carried it through the most perilous and trying period of its history.

What now was the position of the College at the time of his accession and during his presidency ? Materially, there were on the grounds, the old Academy, South College or Hamilton Hall, the Commons Hall, now used for the Cabinet, and the President's house. These were ample accommodations for the number of students then in attendance. The number was about fifty. The Faculty consisted of Professors NOYES, NORTON and STRONG, with a tutor. The death of Dr. BACKUS occurred while every thing in and about the Institution was still inchoate and unformed. A College, especially in a new country, cannot be extemporized nor instantly created. It must grow like any other solid product. It must possess an organic life, and that life must have time to develop itself and become vigorous and strong. An administration of four years is not sufficient to reach this result. The relations of the Faculty to the Students, the relations of the Trustees to the Faculty, the habits of College life and the modes of discipline and study can be fully settled only after sufficient time has elapsed to constitute a broad experience in the light of which the proper adjustments may be made. An interregnum of nearly a year occurred just at this the most critical period, when in this partially formed state the College was without a head. The new President entered upon his office with almost every thing to settle. The Trustees were men of high character, full of enterprise, and intent upon

the great work of placing the College on a firm and high position. But some of them were young and impetuous, not yet informed as to what was the best course to be pursued, imagining that a collegiate institution was to be built up and managed like any other enterprise of common life. They did not always know when it was best for them to interfere, nor when interference, even if within their own discretionary power, would work harm rather than benefit. All this may be said without impeaching motives or attributing to them any thing more than that lack of a just appreciation of their position and relations to the authority of the College, which perhaps only experience could supply.

Meanwhile society outside was in a peculiar condition. During the administration of President DAVIS there arose a most extraordinary fermentation, pervading all classes of society, and reaching to almost every subject of thought and action. Society had just passed its childhood and was now in the transition period of youth—a period when principles were to be settled, foundations examined and modes of thought adjusted for its maturer manhood. In politics the old landmarks were gone; new and exciting questions stirred the hearts of the people; political parties were struggling out of chaos into new forms. In religion, the same process, in a still more marked degree, was visible. There was abroad a deep and uncontrollable excitement. New methods of advancing religion were attempted; new principles and doctrines were discussed; the old were questioned, doubted, resisted; the fire of a new-born enthusiasm filled the heart, and quickened the intellect. The old landmarks were lost sight of; the old fortresses went down. A new era of progress seemed dawning upon the world.

This excitement did not limit itself to politics and religion. It invaded the realm of education; it questioned the old methods of mental discipline; it arraigned, tried, and condemned the classics; it swept away, with its fiery breath, the forms, and methods, and processes of intellectual culture in accordance with which, ever since the revival of letters, the mind of the civilized world had been trained to thought

and expression. It created institutions where, with new methods of mental development, there should be associated the toil of physical labor—and thus it sought to give at once vigor to body and mind. It was the age of experiment. Disdaining the cautious inductions of experience, it attempted intuitively to solve the gravest problems. Instead of that healthy progress which, by a natural law, grows out of increasing light and changed conditions, it made its own fervid imaginations and crude reasonings the basis of action, and sought to force the calmer intellect of the time into the channels it had thus created. Such was the character of this period.

Now introduce into this position—a position confessedly one of the most important and influential, which stands related vitally to the most precious interests of society, civil, literary and religious;—introduce a man like President DAVIS, with his clear intellect and inexorable logic, with his positive character and earnest spirit, with his conservative temper and attachment to the methods in which he had been trained, with his one ideal of what a College should be and of the part which he should act in governing and establishing it, and what else could be expected, but that there would be occasional friction, that differences would arise in respect to which he would feel compelled to follow out his convictions of right, whatever might be the consequences.

There was another circumstance which very much aggravated the difficulties of his position. During the first years of his administration the number of students had increased from fifty to over one hundred. The trustees, anticipating a still greater advance, began the erection of new College buildings. Within a short time the Chapel, Kirkland and Dexter Halls were built, although only two of these were finished. This involved a large expenditure of the funds which should have been kept sacred for purposes of revenue. The natural result soon followed. They found themselves in the condition of a man who had spent all his means in building a large house, for which he had no present use.

The income derived from the students was wholly insufficient to defray the current expenses, and the resources which should have been devoted to making up the deficiency were invested in stone and mortar.

It will not be expected of me to descend into the arena of this controversy. The chief principle involved, was the necessity of a firm support of the authority of the College by the trustees—the necessity of committing the internal regulation of its affairs to the faculty, and of abstaining from all acts which would impair their authority when acting in their appropriate sphere. The immediate results of the controversy were disastrous, but the President, sustained by the consciousness of right, stood firm. Many of the trustees gave him their hearty support. And at length the College emerged from its state of depression and once more went on its way with renewed energy.

The health of Dr. DAVIS had suffered early in life from too close application. His constitution, thus impaired, never recovered its original vigor. Having formed the purpose in middle life, to retire from all public employment when he arrived at the age of sixty, the College being now in a position when he could leave without dishonor and injury, he resigned his office. His interest in the Institution remained as great as before. As a trustee he counseled and aided the Corporation. The closing years of his life, passed amid great bodily infirmities, were spent in the bosom of his own family and surrounded by attached friends. As a Christian he bore his sufferings with quiet submission, cheered by the hopes of that Gospel he had so long preached. At length, in a good old age, respected and beloved, and by the grace of God made meet for the heavenly inheritance, he rested from his labors and went up to meet his God.

In the fall of 1833, the Rev. SERENO EDWARDS DWIGHT, D. D., entered upon the duties of the Presidency. Graduating in 1803 at Yale College, he filled the office of tutor in that Institution from 1806 till 1810. He then commenced the practice of the law. After several years successfully spent in this profession, he studied for the ministry, and in

1817 was settled as the pastor of the Park Street Church, Boston. Here he labored for over ten years with great success. While in this position his health became seriously impaired, and he contracted a disease which shed its darkening influence over all the remainder of his life. He was a man of much natural ability and admirable culture. An earnest and acceptable preacher, an elegant scholar, approved as an instructor; he had many of the qualifications which fit a man for this new position. His short administration of two years was distinguished by two things, which deserve mention here. He spent the first year, in connection with the present senior Professor, in securing what has since been denominated the permanent fund, amounting to \$40,000. The *second event* was the settlement of the question respecting the location of the College. At the first establishment of the College, Clinton was in all respects as eligible a position as any of the surrounding towns. But as the lines of travel centered at Utica, and that place soon took the lead and assumed its present importance, it was natural that her citizens should desire to have the College located in their immediate vicinity. On this condition many of the subscriptions to the permanent fund had been made. The subject was maturely considered by the Corporation; its legal and social aspects examined; the advantages and disadvantages estimated, and after protracted discussion, it was finally decided that it must remain where its original founder had planted it. This decision alienated for a time some of the warm friends of the Institution in that city. Dr. DWIGHT had committed himself to it, and his convictions of its propriety and necessity were very strong. This conviction, in connection with the insufficiency of the endowment, led him to resign his office when an adverse decision was made.

At this time the faculty consisted of Profs. NORTH, LATHROP, AVERY and CATLIN, and Tutor Root. Prof. NORTON was dead, Dr. NOYES had resigned and Prof. STRONG had accepted a Professorship in Rutger's College. The original faculty at the accession of Dr. DAVIS had all ceased to act.

During the same period, Profs. HADLEY, MONTEITH, BARROWS, KIRKLAND and WAYLAND, had been connected with the College for a longer or shorter time.

In the fall of 1835, the Rev. JOSEPH PENNEY, D. D., then pastor of the First Church in Northampton, Mass., was elected to the Presidency, and entered upon his office. Dr. PENNEY was a native of Ireland. He studied at Trinity College, Dublin, and finished his University education at Glasgow, in 1813. In these Institutions he was distinguished as a thorough and accurate scholar. In the spring of 1819, after being licensed to preach, he came to this country, and for two years taught an Academy at Flushing, Long Island. In 1821 he became pastor of the First Church in Rochester, where for eleven years he was one of the most beloved and useful pastors that city has ever had. In 1832, he accepted the pastorsehip of the First Church in Northampton, with the hope of regaining his health impaired by his labors in Rochester. As a preacher, pastor and scholar, Dr. PENNEY had few superiors. In the words of one who knew him well, it may be said, that "his mental characteristics were, keen logical acumen, a good memory, a comprehensive power of generalization, a quick understanding of the true relations of things, by which sophisms were instantly detected and every subject of knowledge that came into his possession, was at once assigned to its place and relations to other things, so as to require no future change in its position or the estimate of its nature and importance." "With such a mind, active, acute and comprehensive, he amassed an amount of knowledge in every department of science, literature and the arts, that made him always the welcome companion if not the instructor of those who occupied the first rank in their several vocations." In the administration of the affairs of the College he succeeded to some of the difficulties which had embarrassed his predecessors, and which it required time wholly to remove. His foreign education may also have contributed somewhat to heighten these difficulties. He felt them however so deeply that greatly to the regret of the trustees and against their earnest request, he

resigned his position in the spring of 1839. Residing subsequently at New York, Nyack, and Grand Rapids, he was near the close of life a great sufferer from the palsy. He returned to Rochester, and there, amidst his old parishioners, in the full enjoyment of the Christian hope, he died in March, 1860. During his administration the Dexter Professorship was founded, and the State made a grant of \$3,000 annually to the College. The larger trees which now adorn the College Campus were planted under his superintendence, and the College began to assume a new position in the eyes of the community.

Thus far we have dwelt upon the administration of those who have passed away. We come now to the acts and influences of those who are living. Obviously the time has not yet arrived to write this portion of the history of Hamilton. In many respects, however, this is the most important period in its history. You will permit me, therefore, to give you a brief summary of what has been accomplished. We trust it will be many years before any one will be called to write the epitaph or describe the character of him, who during this time filled the Presidency of this Institution.

*Seruſ in cælum redeas diuque
Laetus intersis nobis.*

President NORTH was elected Professor of the Latin and Greek Languages in 1829. Having filled this office for ten years with great acceptance, he was in the spring of 1839 elected to the Presidency, and in the summer of 1857 he resigned that office. His Presidency covers eighteen years of the most prosperous and successful period of our history; while his connection with the Institution measures nearly three-fifths of its existence, and is equalled only by that of our present senior professor. During this period the Institution has passed through very great changes. He came here at the time of its greatest depression, when there were but nine students in attendance; he has seen it steadily advance from that point to its present position.

The changes which have taken place during the time of his administration, as they indicate the progress made, demand a specific enumeration. In Natural Science, Geology and Mineralogy were added to the professorship of Mathematics, and received a greater degree of attention. The department of Elocution and Rhetoric was organized under Dr. MANDEVILLE, and has since been made very efficient in the training of the students. Before this, instruction on these subjects had been given by the President. The Maynard Department of Law, Political Economy and History, was organized with Professor DWIGHT as its first occupant. Professor LATHROP had previously given instruction to some extent on these subjects; but the bequest of Mr. MAYNARD was not available until the appointment of Professor DWIGHT, and its present organization dates from that time. The Professorship of Moral Philosophy and Religious Instruction constitutes the fourth of the departments then established. The study of the Modern Languages, *i. e.*, the French and German, occupying the time of one recitation for a single term of the Sophomore and Junior years, was also introduced. These were all important changes, the effect of which upon the general discipline of the students, has been most marked and happy.

The material improvements in the buildings and grounds of the Institution, have been not less marked.* The old

* As early as the year 1805, an effort was made to improve the College grounds by planting the Lombardy Poplar, a tree which then stood high in the estimation of men of taste. The young trees were provided by Rev. Samuel Kirkland, and the planting was done by Mr. Charles Anderson. The road leading up College Hill was lined with poplars on either side. A row of them was planted in front of the College buildings, with another row in the rear. Most of these trees have been removed, at various times, to make room for others that are more desirable.

What was called the College Campus, a rectangular plot of four acres, was graded and fenced in 1826-7. Two or three years later, a row of elms was planted along the stone wall that bounded the Campus on the east, by Othniel Williams, then Treasurer of the College. The larger groups of maple and ash trees which now embellish the grounds in front of the Colleges, were planted by President Penney, in 1836.

In 1853, the plan of modernizing the style of the College grounds, was

Oneida Academy Hall was removed during Dr. DAVIS' administration, in the fall of 1830. Since his accession to the Presidency, Dexter Hall was completed by a special subscription raised for that purpose by President NORTH. Then the old Commons Hall, no longer necessary for boarding purposes, was fitted up as a Mineralogical and Geological Cabinet, and Professor Root's collection purchased and placed in it. The Gymnasium, the Laboratory, and the Observatory were all built and furnished. The grounds to the east of the College lot were purchased, the President's house removed back to its present position and the grounds laid out as we now see them.

The funds necessary for making these improvements and the establishment of the Professorship of Moral Philosophy, were raised in part by Dr. L. E. LATHROP, of Auburn, but mostly by Professor AVERY. The system adopted was that of scholarships, which seemed at the time to work well. Its

undertaken by a few individuals, who contributed \$1,000 to a fund for this purpose. This sum proved to be insufficient, and the Trustees of the College finally appropriated about \$5,000 to complete the work proposed by the curators of the College grounds. Their plan was to bring under cultivation about twenty acres of land immediately surrounding the College buildings. This would include the plot especially designated for an ornamental garden by Mr. Kirkland, in his deed to the Trustees of the Hamilton Oneida Academy. The contributors to the fund of \$1,000, were Charles Avery, Josiah Bacon, B. W. Dwight A. D. Gridley, J. C. Hastings, Simeon North, O. Root, Edward North, A. J. Upson and O. S. Williams. They appointed J. C. Hastings, Esq., Professor O. Root and Rev. A. D. Gridley to act as curators of the College grounds, and directed that the improvements should be made according to a plan proposed by Mr. Hastings.

The changes wrought out by the curators included a new system of drives and walks, the removal of the stone wall and poplar trees in front of the College buildings, the removal of the President's house to a position further west, the planting of boundary hedges and ornamental trees. The curators are already receiving a reward of gratitude for their skillful, patient and generous labor in superintending these improvements. A beautiful feature in the College garden, as now laid out, is the *Pinetum*, commenced by Rev. A. D. Gridley, which contains a large number of hardy evergreens, and is to be enriched by additions in coming years. Valuable donations of trees, shrubs and plants, have also been received from Mr. Charles Downing, Newburgh, and Messrs. Hovey & Co., Boston, Messrs. Ellwanger and Barry and Messrs. Frost & Co., Rochester.

immediate results were a great increase of students, and the erection of the several buildings already enumerated. But the remoter results have not been so happy. Not to speak of the failure of about half of the subscriptions to the Moral Philosophy Professorship, the system of scholarships itself, especially when they are so small as to yield no adequate income when invested, and more than this, when they are invested in unproductive capital, is always disastrous. The revenue of the Institution is diminished, and to a certain extent entirely lost for years. This in turn produces debt, embarrassment, and in many cases in our country has issued in utter bankruptcy. The results in our case, though not so disastrous, have been sufficiently so to constitute a healthful warning for the future. The President foreseeing this, opposed the investment of these funds to so large an extent in buildings which yield nothing. Meanwhile, the State withdrew its annual appropriation, and left the Institution to the care of those who felt an interest in its support.

In spite, however, of this drawback, the advance made during this period was very great. Its whole culture was broader and more complete; its classes large and well trained; its professorships manned by men eminently skilled in their departments; and its facilities for effective work greatly enlarged. The foundation laid was broad and substantial, on which to rear one of the finest colleges in the Union.

In the review of this entire period since its establishment, two or three things stand out as marked characteristics. In the first place, its scholarship has been uniformly high and thorough. It has aimed to train men for the real work of life, and in doing this to make them accurate and profound; to develop the mind as a power of thought and qualify its students for effective work. It has preferred the solid to the brilliant, that which would constitute true power rather than the superficial accomplishments which glitter for a day. It has chosen rather to send out yearly a score of men thoroughly informed and rightly drilled,

than to quadruple the number and give its diploma to many who could hardly translate what it contained.

In the next place, it has been well remarked that its character has been both conservative and progressive. It stood up under Dr. DAVIS manfully against the radical elements which sought to change its whole course of discipline and introduce methods which time has since shown to be ruinous. Its present position, compared with the past, is the finest illustration of its spirit of healthful progress.

But more important than these is the fact that it has from the beginning been a Christian College. It has under all its Presidents steadily aimed to fulfill the purpose of its founder, to enlarge the kingdom of the Redeemer; to train Christian scholars; to spread an intelligence consecrated by the spirit of the Gospel; to bless its students with the hopes of religion, that they might be prepared to create those hopes in others. From the very foundation of the Academy, down through this history of nearly seventy years, revivals of religion have illustrated the power of its Christian life, and from its halls men have gone forth in large numbers to preach the Gospel at home, plant new churches in the heathen world, or in other professions to maintain the Christian character and do battle against the forces of infidelity. Of this record of her sons, whether it stand alone or beside that of any college in the land, she has no reason to be ashamed.

I have spoken only of the presiding officers of this Institution. But if we look beyond them, we shall see cause for gratulation in respect to most of those who have been influential in forming its character and contributing to its success. That character is due largely to its instructors, is reflected by its trustees and illustrated in its sons.

Of the worthy men who have from time to time formed its board of instruction and who still live, I may not speak. Some of them have in other positions, commanded the respect and influenced for good the character of multitudes. But of some of those who have gone from this earthly sphere, who cannot be affected by our words, yet whose

characters form part of the treasured jewels of this College, it may be permitted me to say a few words. There was NORTON, who became Preceptor of the Academy in 1805, and, with the exception of a single year of labor in his Alma Mater, continued in connection with it, and then with the College, until his lamented death in 1818. He was a man of few words, of quiet, unobtrusive deportment, of genuine amiability, yet of decision and energy as a disciplinarian. He was specially devoted to his own department, the languages, and in that he excelled. Prompt, clear, thorough, he early gave to this Institution the high character for classical drill and scholarship, which his successors have so well maintained. The sorrow which President DAVIS felt over his death, and the opinion he years afterwards expressed, that his early departure was for the time a great loss to the Institution, was reflected in the feeling and sentiment of his pupils, the trustees and the community who had learned to value his worth. After President BACKUS, he was the first of our stars that set to rise in undying brilliancy.

There was NOYES, the classmate and warm personal friend of Webster, for eighteen years filling the chair of Chemistry and Natural Philosophy; a man for that time and in respect to a science then in its infancy, accomplished in his profession; fond of analysis, ready in invention, unselfish in spirit, originating that which enriched others rather than himself; of an active rather than a methodical mind, and in this respect better fitted to invent and discover than to communicate the result of his own labors. His method of purifying salt from foreign ingredients has made the State richer by millions, and entitled him to the gratitude of the people. Both Dr. NOYES and Professor NORTON were prominent in the establishment of the College. Professor NORTON, as Preceptor of the Academy, worked with great diligence and success. He was the center around which the Institution at first crystalized; whose spirit largely animated others in the work. Dr. NOYES was chiefly instrumental in procuring the grant of funds from the State, and with Professor

NORTON, formed the original Faculty. He removed from Fairfield, where he was then Professor in the Medical College, and devoted himself with all his energy to the establishment of this Institution. He died in a good old age, in 1853, after seeing the College attain a high position, and in the enjoyment of the respect and friendship of many who had been his pupils and of the community at large.

There was CATLIN, an alumnus of the class 1827, a tutor in 1831, Professor of Mathematics in 1834, translated to a higher sphere in 1839. A scholar of rare merit; a man of clear, vigorous intellect; a Christian of humble, unobtrusive piety; a friend, of warm, constant affections; one whom his pupils esteemed for his sterling worth and loved for his simple, unostentatious life and warm interest in their success; whom his associates respected and society confided in as true and solid in all his acquisitions and spirit; he adorned his chair and gave promise of greater usefulness, when he was cut down by the hand of death.

Standing along side of him was FINLEY SMITH, of the class of 1834, who began his career as an instructor in 1838, and finished his earthly course in 1843. His brief life was that of a bright star, clouded long before it had reached the meridian. Full of talent, original, impulsive, warm in his affections, his soul full of sweet harmonies, and accomplished not only in his own department, but in the science of music, he went ere yet he had reached the full ripeness of years, to join that sacred throng, who know no discords, but whose lives are an unceasing harmony, a glorious psalm of praise to him who loved them and washed them in his blood.

Then there were BARROWS and KIRKLAND, for brief periods successful laborers in this field, but now gone upward.

There was Dr. HENRY MANDEVILLE, whose acquaintance I first formed as one of my successors in Albany, and who at once impressed himself upon me as no common man. Developing early fine powers as a speaker and uniting with these great devotion to his work, he illustrated in the different important positions he was called to fill, those high

qualities which command respect, and under God, ensure success. He came to this Institution in 1841, and for eight years filled the chair of Elocution and Rhetoric. He found the department unorganized and the duties belonging to it performed by the President, as he could afford time from his multifarious labors. He set himself to work to make it the power and give it the position to which its importance entitles it. He wrote here his system of Elocution, basing it upon the principle enunciated by Walker, that the structure of the sentence should control its delivery—the only true philosophical idea of a sound elocution. With this theory he organized a corresponding discipline. He infused his own enthusiasm into the hearts of his pupils. He thus gave to this department its original form and impulse. He stamped upon it that high character, which has since been so successfully maintained by his pupil and successor—a character in this respect second to none of, if not superior to all, the institutions in our land. He was in the language of another, “the eloquent and able preacher, the faithful and well-beloved pastor, the ripe, accomplished scholar, the close and earnest thinker.” He died, a victim to his own devotion to the spiritual welfare of his flock, and thus another of our stars was fixed in the firmament to shine evermore.

There is still another, the Tutor in 1812, the Professor of Mathematics in 1814, taken from us by another Institution in 1828, the able, clear-minded STRONG. He yet survives, and it is not for us to anticipate his epitaph. But you will pardon the indecorum, if such it may be called, of saying that in his department he shone as a light of the first magnitude; that his enthusiasm as a teacher awakened that of his pupils, while his clear demonstrations and his admirable management of his department, made the hidden intricacies of his science a broad highway on which his students loved to walk.

These are specimens of the men who have vitally affected the character of this College from its origin. Others there are, equally noble, learned and useful, now doing duty in

other departments of life, who hereafter will be enshrined by the future historian, among our jewels.

Let us turn now to those who have had the care of this Institution—the members of the Corporation, in whose hands its interests have been placed. What a list of men honored in the State and Church does the record show! At the head of the list stands the honored name of HENRY HUNTINGTON, and following it a constellation of rare brilliancy. There is CARNAHAN, the revered President of Nassau Hall; and LANSING, the eloquent, the founder of Auburn Seminary; and PLATT, the able jurist; and NORTON, the wise pastor; and ANTHON, the scholar; and KENDRICK, full of the spirit of missions, and one of the founders of the Theological Seminary, which has now grown into Madison University; and SEYMOUR and BACON, KIRKLAND and ADAMS, LAWRENCE and GRIDLEY, DWIGHT and BRONSON, and YATES and LOTHROP;—but why do I enumerate? The whole list is one of the most remarkable to be found in connection with any college in the Union. Men wise in their generation, strong in intellect, full of enterprise, the recipients of honor and respect from the State and the Church, illustrate its annals and shed the brilliancy of their fame around the Institution they founded or cherished. From this illustrious roll of those who have ascended above the reach of human eulogy, a sense of his signal services, in harmony with a personal friendship, leads me to select one as a bright example of many. No one, I am sure, acquainted with the man and his relations to this College, will deem it improper, on an occasion like this, to give special prominence to the name of JOSHUA A. SPENCER. As a lawyer he illustrated and ennobled his profession in the courts of this State and those of the United States. With indomitable perseverance and untiring diligence, he largely overcame the defects of his early education, and in the face of obstacles that would have deterred most men, he worked his way to a position at the bar, among the first in the land. But his distinction arose not alone from his intellectual energy; it was higher than that won by forensic triumphs.

He was a man of noble and generous impulses ; his unselfish spirit prompted him to act for others, while religion consecrated all that was natural and superadded its own peculiar excellence. His interest in the cause of Education, heightened perhaps by the difficulties he had himself to encounter, was deep and permanent. From the time when he was elected a member of this Corporation until the hour of his death, he was most active and efficient in promoting its interests. Not merely did he work for us, when present here as a trustee, but in all places and at all proper times, when at home and attending the courts throughout the State, he never lost sight of this Institution. Its importance, present and prospective, as a power to bless the State and advance the best interests of humanity, grew upon him from month to month. He saw, as few men seem to see, the latent forces concealed from the multitude, which here might work to mould society. Animated by this spirit, possessed of these profound and far-reaching views, he threw his whole soul into the work of aiding to establish, enlarge and strengthen it. And when he passed away the trustees and the faculty felt as if a right arm was palsied, one of our ablest benefactors had gone from us. Let us cherish his memory and that of all those who in his position have wrought for these high interests. Let us look back upon this proud roll of our corporators with that generous pride, which sons should ever feel in those who have contributed their influence and strength to give them that richest of all earthly benedictions, a genuine Christian and liberal education.*

But there are others who to-day deserve grateful mention ; men both in the board and out of it, who have won a title to our

* From the foundation of the College, there have been in Clinton, a constant succession of trustees who deserve honorable mention. Among them may be named Rev. Asahel S. Norton, who was a member of the Board for more than thirty years, Joel Bristol, Dr. Sewell Hopkins, Dr. Seth Hastings, Orrin Gridley and George Bristol. These gentlemen served as members of the Executive Committee without compensation, and most of them for many years, and they all contributed liberally of their time and services and substance to build up and strengthen and endow the Institution.

gratitude from their generous benefactions, and whose names will live in connection with this Institution, so long as the tones of yonder bell shall ring in the ears of the generations that are yet to fill our halls. Foremost among these is one, whose counsels and active efforts as a trustee are sufficient to awaken our enthusiasm, but whose generous gifts in addition have contributed most decidedly to our prosperity. In the darkest hour of our history, when the hearts of many sank within them, he gave the highest evidence of his confidence in our future, by his personal contributions. From that day to this he has never faltered; and now in a good old age, rejoices in every token of our prosperity. It will do him no harm—for he has reached an age when the praise of man can affect us little—nor will it be a violation of good taste, for me to mention the name of **SIMON NEWTON DEXTER**. May his closing hours be cheered by the thought that he has not labored in vain, and comforted as he passes into the dark valley by the assurance that he will be remembered gratefully, when he has passed beyond our mortal vision.

To-day, too, we dwell upon the name of **WILLIAM HALE MAYNARD**, the able lawyer, the estimable citizen, who saw the necessity of qualifying the educated young men of our country for their high duties as citizens of a Republic, by a thorough course of instruction in the elements of law and history. His name designates that Professorship which in its intellectual discipline, in its power of establishing principles that are to guide our action as citizens, is scarcely second to any other. The multitudes who have or who hereafter may enjoy its benefits, will not forget the noble generosity that gave it to this Institution.

A few months ago, in yonder valley, near the confluence of the Sauquoit and the Mohawk, we laid in their earthly house the remains of a good man, who in the ripeness of years, had gone home to his father's house on high. All around us, rose the material monuments that illustrated the enterprise, the wisdom, the taste, the piety of the pioneer manufacturer. But here on this hill-side, that good man had

reared a monument more enduring; created an influence vastly more powerful to bless the future of his State and country. That village, those churches and spacious factories will decay or pass into other hands; his name will cease to be identified with those works of his hands and brain; but never while this Institution remains a light in the land, will the influence of BENJAMIN S. WALCOTT cease to be felt or his name fail of grateful recognition from the sons of Hamilton.*

There is another name among our benefactors; one whose princely benefactions to another literary institution as well as this, will carry his influence down to future generations; who will live, in the power to bless mankind these gifts have created, long after the wealth which others have gathered and devoted to mere selfish purposes, has been scattered and lost.

The names of DEXTER and MAYNARD, and WALCOTT and BENJAMIN, associated with those of BATES and DODGE, BILLINGS and others who have here assisted to lay the foundations and rear the structure of a great Christian University, form a constellation that will never set; to which, as a just appreciation of this power of light increases in society, other stars will be added, making the heavens above us, long before our sons celebrate our centennial jubilee, all ablaze with its glory.

Of the five Treasurers of the College, four have gone to another world. The names of CLARK,† and DEAN,‡ and

* The Walcott Professorship of the Evidences of Christianity was founded by the joint donation of Benjamin S. Walcott, and William D. Walcott his son—the former contributing 15,000, and the latter 5,000, of the 20,000 dollars which constitute the foundation.

† ERASTUS CLARK, the first Treasurer of Hamilton College, was born on the 11th of May, 1768, at Lebanon, Conn. He was graduated at Dartmouth College, and at the age of twenty-two was admitted to practice law in the State of Connecticut. In 1791, he removed to the State of New York, and settled first in the village of Clinton, from whence he removed to the city (then village) of Utica, in 1797, and continued to reside there until his death on the 6th of Nov., 1825. He was called to the Bar of Oneida county immediately on removing to Clinton, and continued in the active practice of his profession until his death. Although not a fluent or persuasive ad-

WILLIAMS,* and DWIGHT,† will not be forgotten while sterling integrity and devotion to the interests of this Institution, constitute a just claim upon the respect and veneration of her sons. Nor shall we forget those men, whose enterprise and tact have contributed and are contributing so

vocate, he was a sound, well-read lawyer, a safe counselor, and an eminently upright, frank and sincere man. He took rank with the eminent men of his day in the profession of law, with Platt, and Gold, and Sill, and Kirkland, and Storrs, who were his compeers, and was the antagonist of each and all of them in many a hard fought field. Great diligence, strength of will and tenacity of purpose were his characteristic traits. He was active in all local matters, and took a deep concern in the growth and prosperity of the city of his residence, to which he gave its name, and identified himself with its interests.

‡ JAMES DEAN was the eldest son of Hon. James Dean, of Westmoreland, Oneida Co. He was born Dec. 19th, 1787, in what was then Whitestown, Montgomery Co.; and was the first white male child born within the present limits of Oneida Co.

Having pursued his preparatory studies at the Hamilton Oneida Academy, he was graduated at Union College in 1811, holding the first place as a scholar in his class, and receiving the highest honor. From 1813 to 1816, he was a Tutor in Hamilton College, with Theodore Strong as his colleague. Having resigned the tutorship, he continued his professional studies in the office of Hon. Jonas Platt, of Whitestown, and afterwards with Hon. James Powers, at Catskill, where he was admitted to the Bar. He afterwards removed to New Hartford, Oneida Co., and subsequently to Utica, where he died May 23d, 1841, in the 53d year of his age. He held for some years the office of a Judge of the Courts of Oneida county, was Treasurer of Hamilton College from 1825 to 1828, represented Oneida Co. in the Legislature of this State, and was Clerk of this county for a single term.

He was a gentleman of high moral worth, of singular amiability, modesty, refinement and culture—a gentleman of the old school. He retained through his life his early fondness for classical study. His intimate friends knew him to be familiar with the Latin and Greek poets, and an uncommonly appreciative classical critic. He was a careful student of the Bible, and was familiar with the New Testament in the original version. His habitual self-depreciation had prevented a public profession of his faith in Christ. At his death, he greatly regretted his delay and declared his only hope to be in Christ crucified.

* OTHNIEL WILLIAMS, the third Treasurer, was born in Kensington, Hartford Co., Conn., Jan., 1787. He graduated at Yale College, in 1810; studied law with Judge Platt, of Whitestown, and practiced his profession in Waterville, Oneida Co., until 1820, when he removed to this place. He was elected a Trustee in May, 1827, and Treasurer in August, 1828. He filled this office until his death, on the 4th of November, 1832. These four years embrace

vitably to the establishment of our material interests. ALEXANDER, AVERY, and GOERTNER have written their names broadly on our walls and there they will remain while those walls endure.

I have said that the character of this Institution was illustrated by that of her sons. It is not fit that on this occasion we should fail to speak of those here formed and prepared for life, whose lives are the ripe fruit of the discipline and instruction of Hamilton. It is right for a mother to glory in her children and value them as her true jewels, and wear them as her crown. But here there are two considerations which somewhat embarrass me. The first is the fact that as a College we are yet in our youth and the mass

the darkest period through which this Institution has passed. He stood by it in this time of trial and devoted himself with great earnestness to the work of reviving and establishing it on a permanent basis. The last business transacted by him, was to dictate from his sick bed, a letter respecting the condition and necessities of the College, addressed to Hon. Joshua A. Spencer, who was his personal friend and had been elected a member of the Board at the previous August meeting. An extract from Mr. Speneer's reply, dated Oct. 19, 1832, will indicate the tenor of Mr. Williams' communication. He writes. "Your letter on the College subject I am happy to receive, for I go down this afternoon to see my friend, and I am now furnished with text and sermon which I will not fail to preach."

† BENJAMIN W. DWIGHT, the second of eight sons of Rev. Dr. Dwight, President of Yale College, was born at Northampton, Mass., Feb. 10, 1780. He graduated at Yale College, in 1799; studied medicine, under Drs. Rush and Physick, at Philadelphia, and for a short time practiced his profession at Catskill, N. Y. In consequence of feeble health, he relinquished his profession and acted for several years as his father's secretary and amanuensis. He subsequently engaged in mercantile pursuits in New Haven, New York and Catskill. He settled in the last place in 1817, and in 1831 removed to Clinton. In the fall of 1832, he was elected Treasurer of Hamilton College, which office he continued to hold until his death, May 18th, 1850. The selection of Dr. Dwight for this post, proved to be eminently happy, and his labors for the College were uninterrupted during the nearly twenty years in which he had charge of the finances of the College. Dr. Dwight was not only a ripe scholar, but an accurate, diligent, and methodical business man. He took a deep interest in the College, and his services, during the long period of his incumbency, were of especial value, and intimately connected with its advance from a state of great depression to one of comparative prosperity. The Alumni will ever cherish his memory as one of the most effective friends of this Institution.

of our Alumni are still living. Out of nearly eleven hundred but two hundred are marked on our Catalogue with stars. But to speak of the living is always more difficult than of the dead. The second fact that embarrasses me is the absolute wealth of names that represent men who are powers full of life and light in society. In proportion to the numbers she has sent forth, our Alma Mater challenges comparison in this respect with any other institution in the land. To speak fitly of all those who have honored Hamilton by their lives, would be impossible. The length to which this address has extended and the exercises which are yet to follow, warn me to be brief in what I have yet to say. Permit me then to mention only a few names; let them stand as representatives of the whole; and if in mentioning some I should seem unjust to others equally worthy, you will attribute it to the necessities of my position and pardon the seeming neglect. Take then, as fit representatives of the ministers that have been formed here, the names of CALHOUN and DIMMICK, of ADAMS and NORTON, of PARKER and HAGUE and WING. From men like these society has felt going down into it, influences mighty for good: influences that have created life in the bosom of death and given an heavenward impulse to vast multitudes. One name there is that at once rises to every lip, when you think of the faithful pastor and the able preacher; one, whose works full of light and Christian research have stirred and enlightened the minds of millions in our own land and in that of our mother, England: need I mention to this audience the name of ALBERT BARNES?

Take next as the representatives of our Christian scholars and educators, the names of Presidents TAYLOR and SMITH and BACON, of WHEDON and KENDRICK and HADLEY and WOOLWORTH and the DWIGHTS, whose attainments have given them a high place among the scholars of the land, and whose labors in the cause of education have surrounded them with an enduring glory. One too there is among this class, the pupil of BACKUS, the son-in-law of KIRKLAND,

whose name and fame are world-wide. Wherever profound learning and ripe Christian scholarship are valued, there will the name of EDWARD ROBINSON be held in high esteem. From such men Hamilton College derives her glory and illustrates her power.

As an example of that missionary spirit which founded the Academy and which has ever had its home here, I mention the name of HARRISON GRAY OTIS DWIGHT. As a Christian scholar of high attainments, as a missionary for more than thirty years in the city of Constantine, as one of the leaders of that noble band who under the divine guidance originated that wonderful reformation, second in magnitude only to that of the sixteenth century, which is now spreading through the masses of Armenia, moving the Greek and infusing its life into the palsied heart of the Turk, Dr. DWIGHT won the esteem and veneration of the church at home, and a place of power in the hearts of multitudes in that land once trodden by the feet and bedewed by the tears of Christian apostles and martyrs. A few weeks before God took him up in his whirlwind chariot, he returned to us and told the story of his life. With fond anticipations he looked forward to this day; he expected to meet again on this spot the friends of his college days; to renew the scenes of his youth, and gather fresh vigor from these delightful associations for his yet uncompleted task. He is not here in bodily presence; he is here in spirit with his crown of many stars. And to-day we set him among our garnered jewels and hold him up as the representative of those noble men this Christian College has reared, whose lives illustrate the Gospel on foreign shores.

If now we pass to the Bar, we select the names of CHARLES P. KIRKLAND and THOMAS HUNT FLANDRAU, as representatives of that power which Hamilton has exerted in all parts of the Union; while on the Bench the names of GRIDLEY, and HENRY, and BACON, and CLINTON, will represent that constellation of our worthies who have nobly administered justice and enforced the laws. In the State, as executive officers and legislators, let SEDGWICK, and COCHRANE,

and WILLARD, and FENTON, sustain her escutcheon ; while FOOTE and HASTINGS shall marshal our physicians ; and GERRIT SMITH, the pupil and son-in-law of President BACKUS, will lead off our golden-mouthed orators ; and KENDRICK and HOWE, this day, illustrate the grace and beauty of our brothers in the realm of literature and poesy. What an array, full of intellect, instinct with power to bless the world, here trained for its work, will not these names suggest ! What vital influences to ennoble and elevate humanity, penetrating all stations and departments of society, reaching all over our country and touching foreign shores, have gone forth from these Halls !

Sons of Hamilton, as ye gather to-day around the old hearth-stone, to celebrate the golden wedding of her who bore you in her arms in your early feebleness ; as brother greets brother returned from your long wanderings and manly toils ; as classmate recounts to classmate the story of his checkered life, his defeats and triumphs, his sorrows and joys ; as to-morrow ye shall listen to these younger brothers panting for their entrance on the battle of life, give thanks —give thanks to that great Being, who, amidst all the embarrassments and difficulties incident to the youth of such an institution, has yet enabled her to ripen such influences and gather in such glorious fruits. Let the names which brighten and adorn the record of her first half-century ; let the victories her sons have achieved ; let the visible monuments of light they have reared, indicating the immeasurable power put forth to fertilize and bless society, which, not until the judgment unrolls its records, will blaze before us in all its glory ; let these swell your hearts with the joy of a true Jubilee, while they lift before you the grander promise of the future.

And now you ask what of that future ? We pretend not to possess the vision of the prophet ; we cannot compass or anticipate the purposes of Him, who through these institutions is working out his own glorious ends. But, while recognizing the necessity of His benediction to the success of all our plans, we see clearly certain elements which must

enter into our permanent prosperity. The first of these, the most important, the vitally essential, is the high estimate in which the Church shall hold these institutions as necessary to the progress of Christianity. I repeat here to-day the words of the historian of the Pilgrims: "After God had carried us safe to New England, and we had builded our houses; provided necessities for our livelihood, reared convenient places for God's worship, and settled the civil government, one of the next things we longed for, and looked after, was to advance learning and perpetuate it to posterity; dreading to leave an illiterate ministry to the churches, when the present ministers shall be in the dust." "A college was the best thing that ever New England thought upon." Thus out of the necessities of the church the college sprang to life. I echo to-day the words of our first President: "Mere science without moral and religious habits, is a curse, and not a blessing to the community." I echo the words of Dr. LOTHROP, the grandson of KIRKLAND: "Our colleges without the Bible and religion will be a curse to the nation." Let the Church of Christ in this State, more immediately and naturally connected with us, rise to a full conception of the magnitude of the interest she has at stake in this Institution; let her install it in her affections; inspire it with her spirit and breathe around it her prayers: let her ministry watch over its interests, concentrate upon it their anxieties and breathe the spirit of a high enthusiasm for its progress and elevation into their congregations: let the college thus be linked to the very life of the church; and under God it will live, it will rise; it will pour back into her bosom a new life; it will man her enterprises with heroic workers; it will consecrate science and religion to her service, and prepare her to carry the Gospel triumphant through the world.

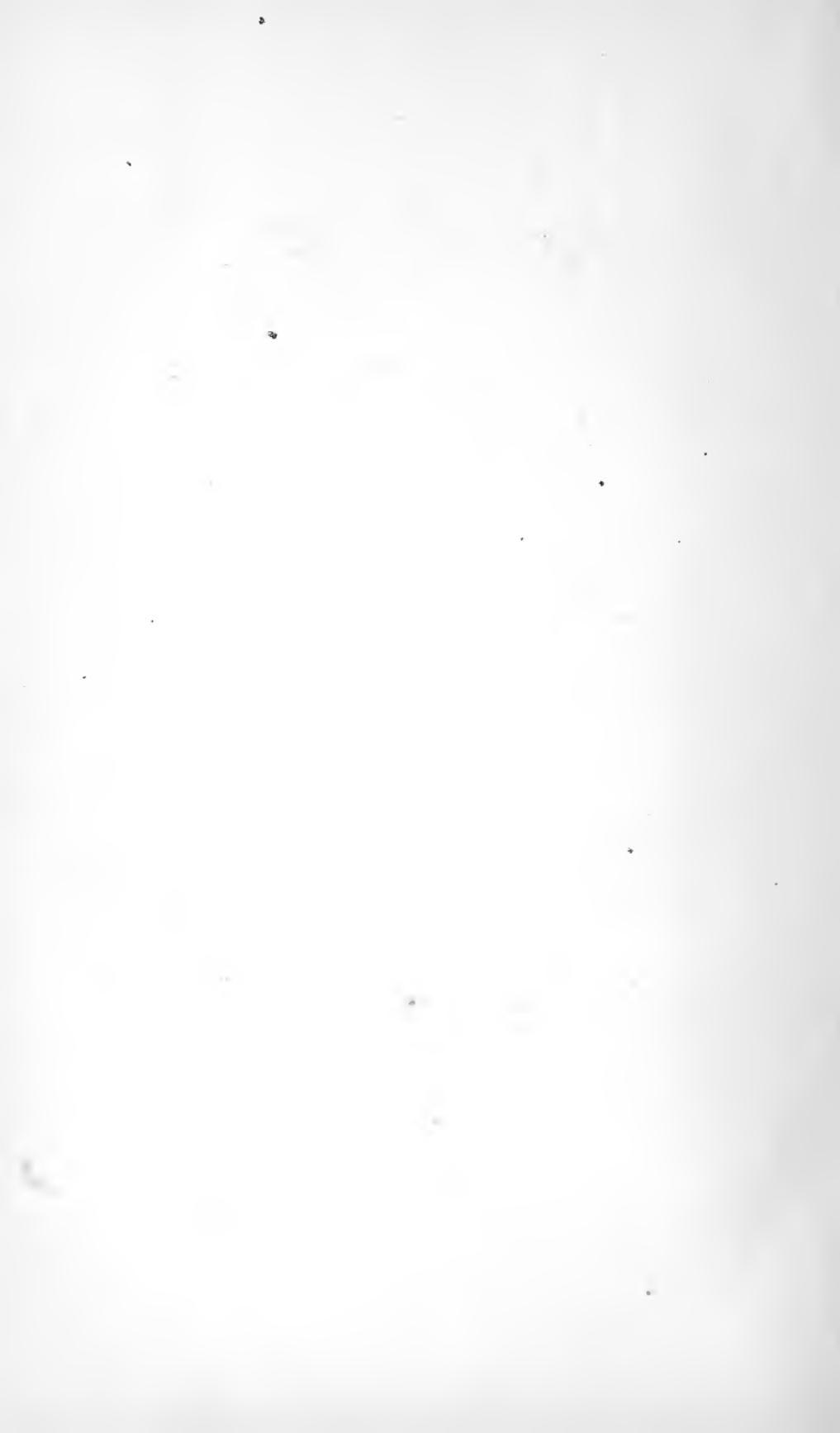
Then let the alumni of Hamilton bear her in their arms and cherish her as their noble mother. Let them, bearing in mind what she has done, what she is doing, and anticipating the vast work for Christ and humanity which, with enlarged facilities, she will yet do, stand by her; second

every effort for her enlargement ; advocate her just claims with a generous enthusiasm ; work for her on all fit occasions with that true pride which inspires the possessor of a noble ancestry, and she in turn will reflect upon her sons a brighter light and make every heart thrill as he feels, "I am a son of Hamilton."

Then let us carry our appeal to that profound patriotism which animates our citizens ; let us show how she plants in the heart of her sons every noble virtue that can elevate the nation and exalt humanity ; how, not only have her sons been foremost in lifting up the glorious banner of our country against the armed hordes of rebellion, on every battle field, but in every department of society, where mind achieves its triumphs, have they vindicated their early training and borne high advanced the name of Hamilton. Let us possess these three grand elements of success, and we shall have the divine benediction resting upon us in light and glory ; we shall have a large and generous constituency ; our plans for her advancement, however extensive, will have a grand fulfillment ; we shall not be compelled to ask on how small a sum can she be sustained ; we shall not be compelled to task one man with the burdens that belong to two ; we shall not be driven by stern necessity to question whether the services of this or that faithful laborer, cannot be dispensed with and laid upon others already overtasked ; we shall deal generously with those noble men who devote their lives to this often thankless work ; we shall be able to say to the young man struggling to gain an education in spite of adverse circumstances, "Go forward, you shall not want !" we shall enlarge all our facilities for education, until there shall not be found on the broad earth another institution established on a more solid and generous foundation ; and as her alumni go forth, they will point back with noble pride to their beloved mother, and thank God they are her sons.

It was amidst the smoke and thunder of war, that fifty years ago the foundations of this College were laid ; and when they passed away, lo ! on yon hill-top had sprung

into being a power mightier than the sword; more glorious than its triumphs. It is amidst the heavier thunder and darker cloud of this dread conflict, when all, that to us is most precious, is in peril, we celebrate our Semi-centennial Jubilee. This thunder shall roll away and the cloud disperse before the uprising patriotism of twenty millions of freemen and the red-right arm of the Lord of hosts. Then will our Alma Mater enter upon a new, a grander march of progress. O! for a glance of the prophetic eye of him who on Patmos saw the future of the nations pass before him!—a power to anticipate the Centennial Jubilee!—to see the edifices, sacred to learning and religion, that will then crown our hill side!—the thousands of noble sons that will press upward with glad footsteps, as to a shrine of all that is loved and sacred, to pour their thanksgivings forth to God at her feet; to hear some of these young brothers, then veterans gray with age and many a hard fought battle on the field of humanity, recount the hour when they celebrated this first jubilee, and with tears of gladness, bless God, for the wondrous influence and glorious works accomplished, beyond our thought, which shall then constitute her past! Then the speakers and the actors in this scene will most of them have passed away. But the work we do shall live; this day shall bring forth glorious fruit, and from another world it will be ours to rejoice in spirit with the assembled thousands of her sons, as to-day the spirits of KIRKLAND, and BACKUS, and DAVIS, and DWIGHT, and PENNEY look down rejoicingly upon us from the mansions of the blest.











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